

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS, LAUNCH SITES 1-4
LAUNCH COMPLEX A, SARY-SHAGAN
ANTIMISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR



CIA



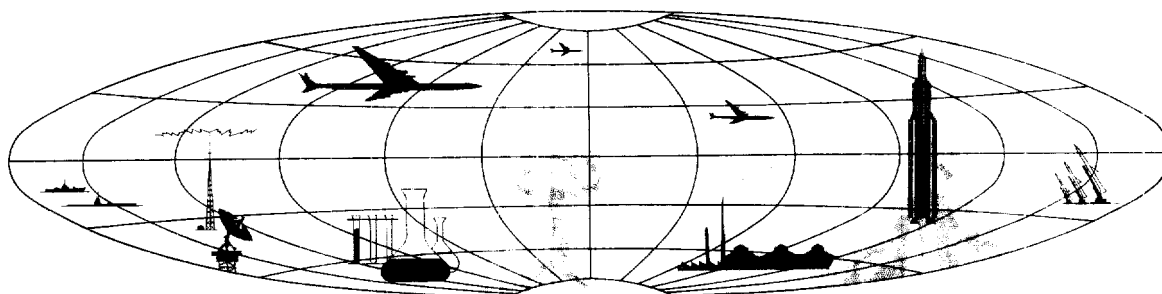
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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS, LAUNCH SITES 1-4, LAUNCH COMPLEX A 25X1D

SARY-SHAGAN ANTIMISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR 25X1D 25X1D

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General

A brief statement concerning the construction chronology of the six launch sites at Launch Complex A at Sary-Shagan Antimissile Test Center (SSATC) (Figure 1) is necessary for an understanding of activities in progress at Sites 1 through 4. Sites 1 and 2, and 5 and 6 were observed to be complete or nearly complete in [REDACTED] and probably complete by [REDACTED]. Sites 3 and 4 were not present in [REDACTED] were under construction in [REDACTED] and appeared complete and active by [REDACTED]. Sites 3 and 4, placed in juxtaposition south and west of Sites 1 and 2, were observed to be separated by a single fence on photography of [REDACTED]. A double fence enclosed the balance of Sites 1 and 2, and 3 and 4. Analysis of the most current good quality pertinent photography dated [REDACTED] revealed the common fence to remain between the four sites. The only recent identifiable change in the fencelines at these sites occurred by [REDACTED] along the southwest boundary of the site where the fenceline was modified to accommodate new road construction near Site 3 and Electronic Site B.

Analysis of 50 by 20-foot Unidentified Objects at Launch Sites 3 and 4

First coverage of Sites 3 and 4 (Figures 2, 3, and 4) dated [REDACTED] and that of [REDACTED] were not sufficiently clear to permit identification of 50 by 20-foot objects which were to appear subsequently. 1/ These unidentified objects will continue to be referred to as such pending the receipt of better photography permitting identification. First photography distinct enough to confirm their presence at Site 3 was in [REDACTED] at which time two

dark rectangular objects, each 50 by 20 feet, were deployed side by side on the outward portions of each of the six launch positions. A single small vehicle/piece of equipment was positioned at the same time on the inward portion of all but one of the pads. The 12 unidentified objects remained apparently in the same position from at least [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] when all but 4 disappeared, leaving 2 pairs on 2 pads. The 2 pairs of objects remained on these pads until latest coverage of [REDACTED]. From [REDACTED], the two pads with the unidentified objects were occupied on the central or inward portion of the pad variously by one or two small vehicles/pieces of equipment or by no vehicles/pieces of equipment. There is no photographic evidence to indicate that the 50 by 20-foot objects have appeared, disappeared, and subsequently reappeared. The outward portion of those pads where the objects had appeared and disappeared by [REDACTED] bore a closer resemblance in tone to the adjacent grayish tone terrain than to the light tone of the inward portions of the pads. On photography of [REDACTED], however, the outward portions of these four pads appeared lighter in tone.

Figure 3 illustrates the appearance and positioning of these unidentified objects at Site 3 in [REDACTED]. The details necessary to permit an effective drawing of these objects are not available. These objects are of undetermined height and appeared dark in tone on all available coverage except in [REDACTED] when all but two appeared light. On [REDACTED] and on latest [REDACTED] photography, two of the objects appeared wider than on other coverages. The fact that these two objects had assumed their original appearance by [REDACTED] might indicate a tarpaulin extending between the two objects.

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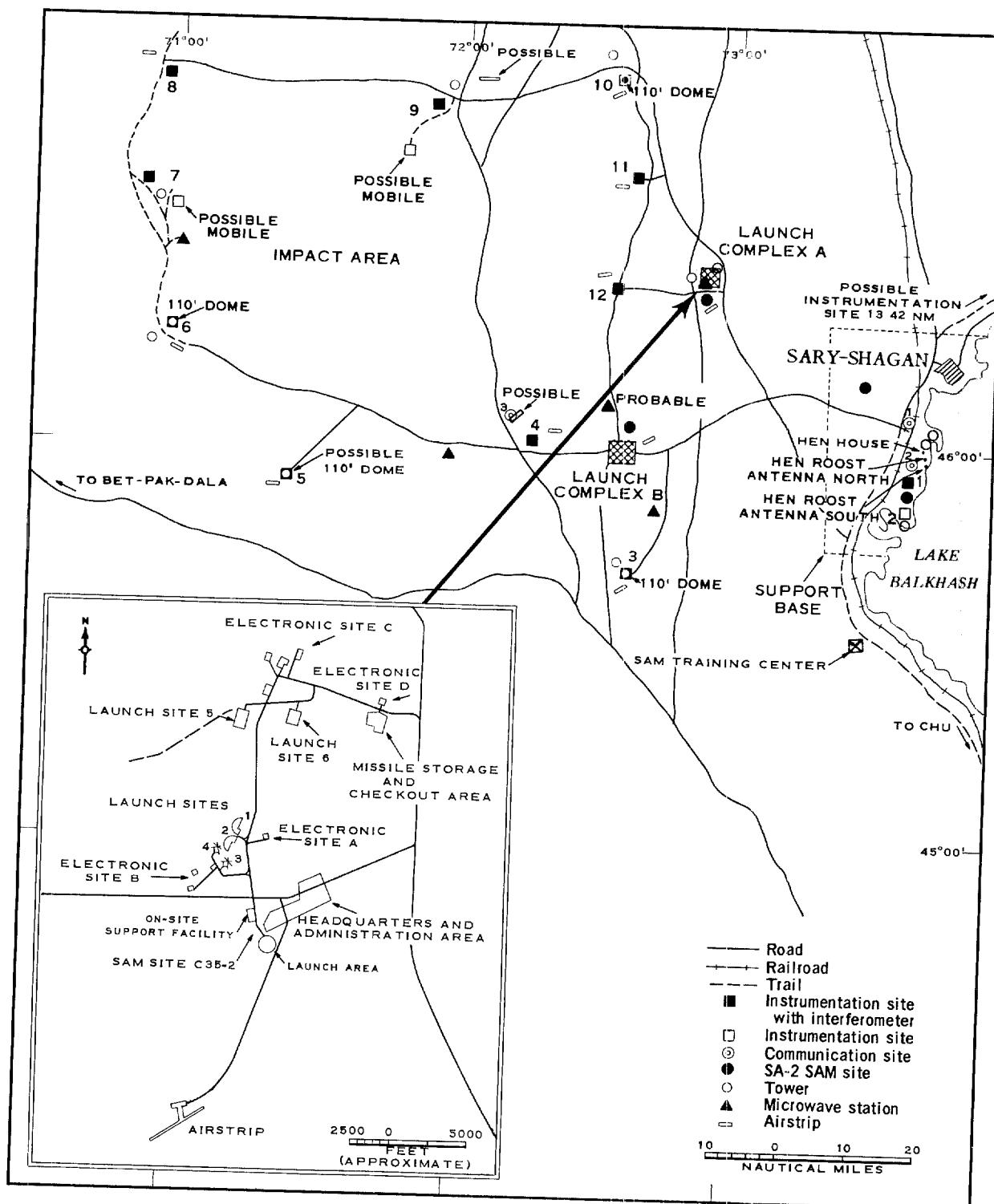


FIGURE 1. ANTIMISSILE TEST CENTER, SARY-SHAGAN, USSR.

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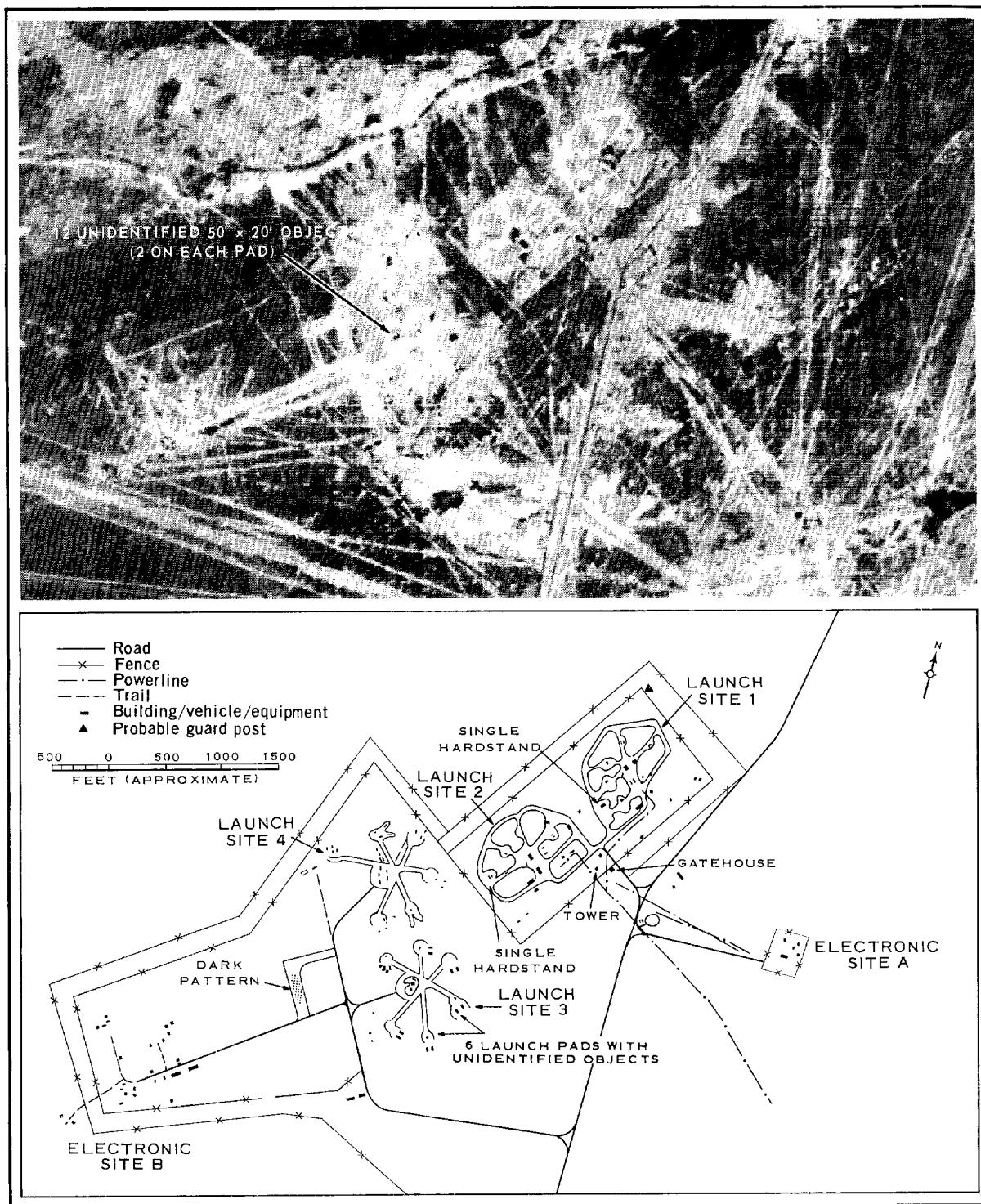


FIGURE 2. LAUNCH COMPLEX A--LAUNCH SITES 1-4 AND ELECTRONIC SITES A AND B, 25X1D

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These objects have not appeared to be present at Site 4 as far as can be determined from available photography. Dark areas present at several launch positions appeared to consist of clusters of small vehicles/pieces of equipment. Site 4 has been generally more active than Site 3 in that almost all pads have been occupied on almost every mission. Pads have been occupied in a variety of patterns by as many as seven small vehicles/pieces of equipment of generally the same size. Certain of these have remained in the same location from [REDACTED] others have shifted about.

The majority and probably all of the pads at Sites 3 and 4 appear to consist of a semicircular inward portion and an outward portion having a forked appearance. Frequently a vehicle/piece of equipment, either alone or flanked by one or two other vehicles/pieces of equipment, is noted on the inward portion of the pad. Two and some-

times three vehicles or pieces of equipment are often deployed on the outward portion of the pads with an occasional piece in the central portion.

The requirement requested evidence negating Sites 3 and 4 as hard sites; photographic coverage to date does not permit confirmation or negation of these sites as hard. On the small scale photography used no evidence could be found at these sites of quantities of excavated earth, of construction equipment, of material for silo construction, of the excavation itself, or of silo covers. However, it was not until the spring of [REDACTED] that identification of such features would be possible even if they were present.

Mobility of Certain Pieces of Equipment at Launch Sites 1 and 2, and 3 and 4

Evidence of the mobility of certain pieces of equipment observed at the launch pads at Sites 3 and 4 has been described in preceding

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FIGURE 3. LAUNCH SITES 1-4 AND ELECTRONIC SITES A AND B, [REDACTED]

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sections of this report as has the fact that other pieces have remained at both sites from at least [REDACTED]. A certain amount of equipment mobility has been observed also at the launch pads at Sites 1 and 2, at the central guidance areas at the four sites and at Electronic Sites A and B, although in greater degree at Sites 3 and 4 and at Electronic Site B. It must be remembered, however, that considerably larger numbers of pieces of equipment and more activity generally have been involved at these three sites. The central guidance areas at Sites 3 and 4 appear to consist of small vehicles/pieces of equipment which have shifted from time to time. The central guidance areas at Sites 1 and 2, in contrast with those at Sites 3 and 4, are composed of a small number of small structures and vehicles/equipment, all of which have displayed a certain amount of shifting. Two and subsequently three structures as well as

several small sheds have remained apparently unchanged at Electronic Site B but movement of equipment has been observed. Mobility of this type was noted as well as at Electronic Site A and at the single hardstand at Sites 1 and 2. One object with height at the single hardstand at Site 2 appeared in [REDACTED] and was still present in [REDACTED]. Five launch pads at Sites 1 and 2 appear occupied since [REDACTED] by a single small piece of equipment on each pad which would seem to be stationary rather than mobile.

Vehicles/pieces of equipment have been observed at Sites 3 and 4 parked on the natural terrain adjacent to the access road, adjacent to the launch pads, along site diagonal roads, and near the central guidance areas. This practice is not characteristic of Sites 3 and 4 alone but is followed as well at the other four launch sites at Launch Complex A, although in considerably

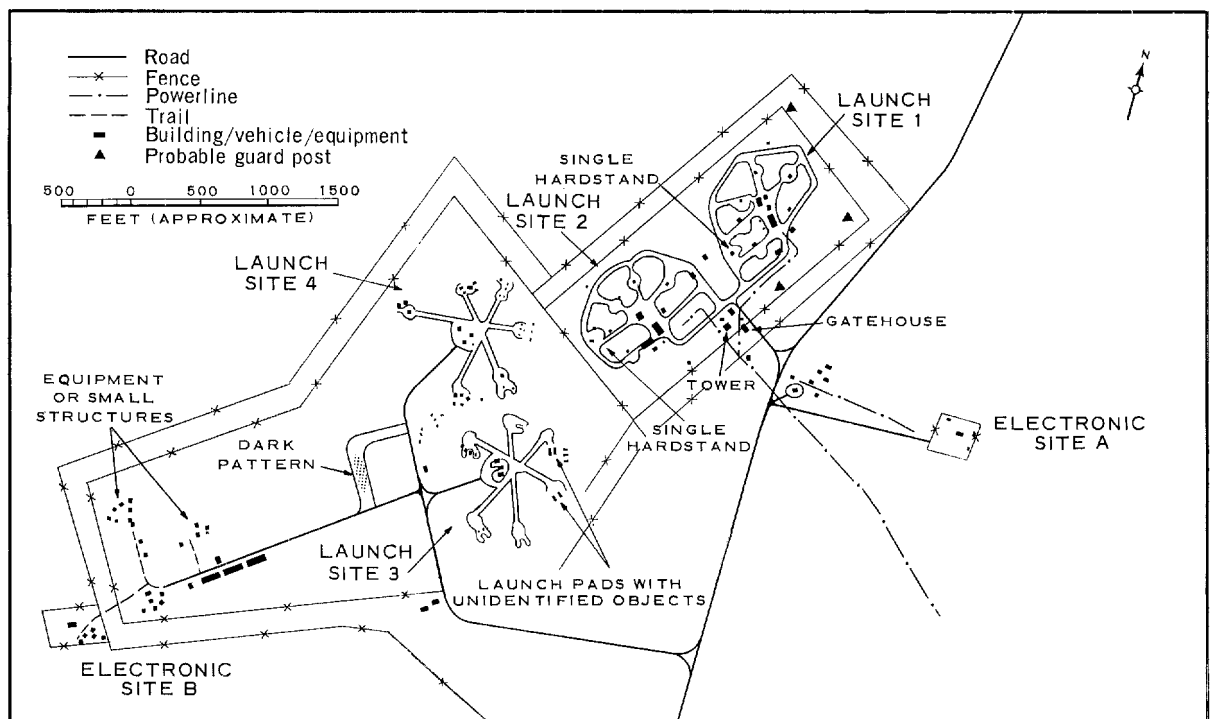


FIGURE 4. LAUNCH SITES 1-4 AND ELECTRONIC SITES A AND B, [REDACTED]

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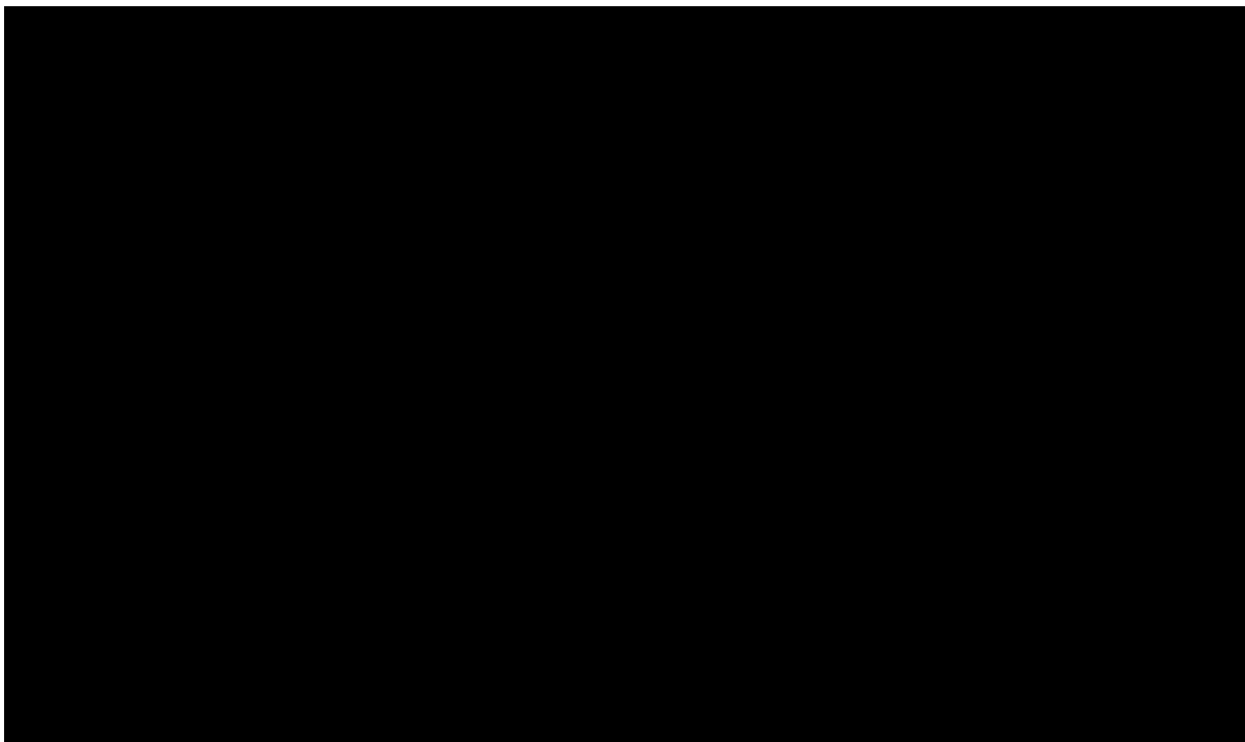
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less degree, usually consisting of a single or a small cluster of pieces of equipment. The arrangement is particularly interesting at Site 3 where short rows of three or four pieces of equipment were lined up near the launch pads even during snow conditions of [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

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PHOTOGRAPHY



MAPS OR CHARTS

AMS. Series DESPA-1, Sheet NL 43-4, Edition 1, Jun 63 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

AMS. Series DESPA-1, Sheet NL 43-7, Edition 1, Jun 63 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

DOCUMENT

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1. NPIC. R-162/64, *Antimissile Test Center, Sary-Shagan, USSR, Changes and Additions as of* [REDACTED]
Mar 64 (TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF)

REQUIREMENT

CIA. OSI/C-SI4-81,388

NPIC PROJECT

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